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Claims:

Sub. B1)

1. A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the food-stuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions containing the food-stuff and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton, wherein the pouch dimensions are calculated such that each pouch can contain the desired quantity of food-stuff, as well as sufficient air to protect the food-stuff by cushioning.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged substantially upright or transverse in the carton.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged in a concertina configuration in the carton.

Sub. a2)

4. A method as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.

5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged parallel to one another in the carton.

Sub. a3)

6. A method as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one pleat is formed in the tube so that the pouches are expandable.

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8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the at least one pleat is formed in each pouch after the lower end of each pouch is sealed but before the goods are fed into he pouch.

Sub, a4) 9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pouches in the or each strip are substantially the same size.

10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each pouch is substantially cubic in shape.

Sub, a5> 12. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing is by means of heat.

13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.

14. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.

15. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.

16. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.

17. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

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18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the perforations are formed by means of a comb-type cutter.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the comb-type cutter has means for severing the pouches from one another.

20. A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the pouches are severed from one another after a pre-determined number of pouches has been filled and sealed.

21. A method of packaging brittle food-stuff substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings.

Sub, a6>

22. Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

TOTAL P.09